



February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians of Stowe, Morrisville and Elmore 3 and 4 year olds:

We are excited to inform you that we will be collaborating with Stowe, Morrisville, and Elmore this coming school year to allow us to continue offering publically funded Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) to many of Stowe's, Morrisville's, and Elmore's youngest students.

### **How does it work?**

Pre-K programs are offered in partnership with high quality, community childcare and preschool providers, meaning that your child may access publically funded Pre-K in the setting s/he already attends. Public tuition funds are paid to participating providers to assist with the increased costs of meeting high expectations for Pre-K, and may also offset some of the costs of tuition for parents. High expectations include instruction aligned with the Vermont Early Learning Standards, assessment using Teaching Strategies Gold, an Early Childhood Educator licensed by the State of Vermont on staff, and participation in regional professional development, to name a few. These requirements benefit all children in partner programs!

### **Which students can participate?**

In this, the second year of Pre-K in Stowe, and third year for Morrisville, the Supervisory union anticipates being able to accommodate all 4-year olds in partner programs and some of the 3-year olds. By prioritizing 4-year olds for the available slots, each child has the opportunity to access at least one year of publically funded Pre-K. A lottery will be conducted to award slots for 3-year olds if there are more applicants than space.

### **I want my child to participate. What do I need to do?**

*If your child is 4-years old* as of September 1, 2014, will be attending Apple Tree Learning Centers next school year, and you would like for your child to participate, fill out the attached enrollment form and return it to us by **Monday March 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

*If your child is 3-years old* as of September 1, 2014, will be attending Apple Tree Learning Centers next school year, and you would like for your child to participate, fill out the attached application and return it to us by **Monday March 3<sup>rd</sup>**. A lottery will be conducted by the Supervisory Union after May 9<sup>th</sup>. We will distribute enrollment forms for selected students promptly after the lottery is conducted. If your child is not selected, s/he will have priority in next year's program as a 4-year old.

We are committed to serving children in our communities and if you change your plans about your child's participation in the program at any time, please notify us as soon as possible. If you have further questions, please feel free to speak with Sonja or Nicole.

Sonja